

Remarks

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 7-20 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections at an early date is requested.

Claims 1-12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (U.S. Patent No. 3,986,401). Peterson discloses a sampling system for collecting fluid samples from high velocity effluents. It comprises a pump, which is energized in certain time intervals and draws the fluid in a sample chamber. When the pump is turned off, the valves of the sample chamber are operated automatically in response to the hydrostatic and atmospheric pressure and the sample is allowed to drain out in a collection container.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to specifically require that the discharge line be one single line. To the contrary, Peterson uses two different discharge lines (20, 26), one for applying the negative pressure and another to drain the sample to the collection container. The use of a single discharge line in the present invention allows the sample to move directly in the direction of the pump and avoids a change in direction of the sample flow.

For these reasons, Applicants believe that Peterson does not make the present invention obvious.

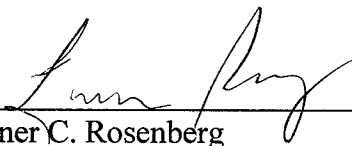
Therefore, all pending claims should now be allowable. Allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-20 and at an early date is respectfully requested.

A Credit Card Payment is being submitted via EFS-Web authorizing payment in the amount of \$650.00, representing \$245.00 for a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) for a

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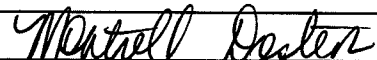
two-month extension, and \$405.00 representing the fee for a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) for a Request for Continued Examination, a Request for Extension of Time and Request for Continued Examination are enclosed. This amount is believed to be correct, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,



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